

April 24, 2006
OUR 79th YEAR

Docket Clerk
Marketing Order Administration Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
AMS, USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - STOP 0237
Washington, DC 20250-0237
VIA E-MAIL: moab.docketclerk@usda .gov

RE: Docket No. FV06-925-610 Review
Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 34, Page 8810
Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California
COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE

Dear Docket Clerk:

These comments are a follow up to our original comments submitted on Sept. 9, 2005. Western Industries – North, Inc. continues to oppose the change in the dates that Table Grape Marketing Order 925 proposes, which will place restrictions on table grapes supplied from Chile.

Western Industries - North, Inc. provides fumigation services to the shippers/receivers of Chilean grapes to meet the entry requirements of the USDA, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). We believe this proposed change will put undue trade restrictions on our clients.

The Chilean Exporters Association (ASOEX) has commissioned comprehensive studies and submitted them to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Marketing Order Administrative Branch.

We understand that it is very difficult to outline a typical season in agricultural production. The need to rely on solid statistical data reflecting the variations of harvesting dates, market access and overlapping or the absence of overlapping products is essential. In our review of the information concerning these conditions, it is our belief that the preponderance of the evidence favors the Chilean position. We also believe that the current effective date April 20, based on the available data, should be advanced to May 1.

We strongly urge your Agency not to adopt the Proposed Rule, moving the marketing order date to April 1.

Respectfully submitted,


Miriam Borja
Western Industries - North, Inc.